

states and units of local government are reminded that the Federal Government has deployed unprecedented resources to address the pandemic, including housing assistance.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Treasury have informed CDC that unprecedented emergency resources have been appropriated through various Federal agencies that assist renters and landlords during the pandemic, including \$46.55 billion to the Treasury through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Furthermore, in 2020 44 states and 310 local jurisdictions allocated about \$3.9 billion toward emergency rental assistance, largely from funds appropriated to HUD from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES). These three rounds of federal appropriations also provided substantial resources for homeless services, homeowner assistance, and supplemental stimulus and unemployment benefits that low-income renters used to pay rent.

Visit <https://covid.cdc.gov/coviddata-tracker/#county-view> for an integrated, county view of levels of community transmission for monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Visit <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/state-and-localgovernments> for more information about the Coronavirus Relief Fund and <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/emergency-rental-assistance-program> for more information about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Visit www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp to access the Rental Assistance Finder that connects renters and landlords with the state and local programs that are distributing billions of dollars in federal assistance. Relevant agencies have informed CDC that forbearance policies for mortgages backed by the federal government provide many landlords, especially smaller landlords, with temporary relief as new emergency rental assistance programs are deployed.

Treasury, HUD, and USDA grantees and program participants play a critical role in prioritizing efforts to support this goal. All communities should assess what resources have already been allocated to prevent evictions and homelessness through temporary rental assistance and homelessness prevention, particularly to the most vulnerable households.

Treasury, HUD, and USDA stand at the ready to support American communities in taking these steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain economic prosperity.

For program support, including technical assistance, please visit www.hudexchange.info/programsupport. For further information on HUD resources, tools, and guidance available to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, state and local officials are directed to visit <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus>. These tools include toolkits for Public Housing Authorities and Housing Choice Voucher landlords related to housing stability and eviction prevention, as well as similar guidance for owners and renters in HUD-assisted multifamily properties. Furthermore, tenants can visit www.consumerfinance.gov/housing for up-to-date information on rent relief options, protections, and key deadlines.

Effective Date

This Order is effective on August 3, 2021 and will remain in effect through October 3, 2021, subject to revision based on the changing public health landscape.

Authority: The authority for this Order is Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 CFR 70.2.

Sherri Berger,
Chief of Staff, Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2021-16945 Filed 8-4-21; 2:00 pm]
BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

NICARAGUA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the accelerating political crisis in Nicaragua and the Ortega regime's anti-democratic efforts to hold illegitimate elections in November.

On November 7, Daniel Ortega will attempt to deny the Nicaraguan people their most basic right: the right to choose their country's leaders in free and fair elections. This grave restriction on basic democratic freedoms confirms that the Ortega regime is consolidating the Western Hemisphere's third dictatorship. In the lead up to these elections and in response to unrestrained assaults against democracy, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed my legislation entitled the "Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform (RENACER) Act." This bipartisan legislation, taken together with the Biden administration's additional imposition of visa restrictions against individuals affiliated with the regime, demonstrates the United States is firmly committed to the restoration of democracy to Nicaragua.

The legislation is also consistent with our commitments to promote and defend democracy in the Americas. As the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter approaches next month, we must recognize that a growing trend of deeply flawed and fraudulent electoral processes jeopardizes regional consensus in support of free, fair, and transparent elections across the Americas. Whether in Nicaragua in 2016, Honduras in 2017, Bolivia in 2019, Guyana in 2020, or Venezuela in 2017, 2018, and 2020, democratic elections are under attack by autocrats and populists alike. Regrettably, the Ortega regime is taking steps to continue this trend.

Today, Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo hold more than 140 political prisoners, including eight opposition candidates for President and Vice President. These individuals represent a broad political spectrum and include Arturo Cruz, Félix Maradiaga, Juan Sebastián Chamorro, Medardo Mairena, and Miguel Mora. Three more contenders, Berenice Quezada, Cristiana Chamorro, and Noel Vidaurre, are under house arrest.

On July 27, the regime incarcerated the country's 76-year-old former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Francisco Aguirre Sacasa, under bogus charges of treason and without regard for his health or well-being. The regime is holding Sacasa and many others at El Chipote detention center: a facility infamous for acts of torture and ill-treatment, according to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The re-

gime continues to deny prisoners due process, access to family contact, and legal counsel. Essentially, many of them have been disappeared.

On Friday, Ortega cancelled the registration of the last remaining opposition political party that was positioned to participate in the November elections, Ciudadanos por la Libertad—Citizens for Freedom. The regime went as far as to strip the head of that party of her Nicaraguan citizenship. These are not actions that would be tolerated in any democratic system in the world; these are the actions of a tin-pot dictator.

The events since June are the culmination of the Ortega regime's years-long process to dismantle democracy in Nicaragua. When Nicaraguans took to the streets to protest their living conditions in 2018, the regime responded with a brutal campaign of violence. Over 330 protesters were killed. Today, the number of Nicaraguans fleeing the country is on the rise, increasing the complexity and reach of the challenge.

The Ortega-Murillo regime's authoritarian power grab poses a direct challenge to U.S. national security and regional stability. I am proud to have authored the RENACER Act and to lead the bipartisan, bicameral effort to send a clear message to Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo: Reverse course now and the international community stands ready to support the restoration of democracy; or continue down the current path and face consequences.

The RENACER Act requires the United States, working with our partners in the European Union, Canada, and Latin America and the Caribbean, to align our diplomatic efforts and sanctions tools to push for one goal, democratic elections. The bill requires increased intelligence reporting on the regime's corruption and its malign partnership with Russia. This legislation will provide for better documentation of human rights violations and guarantee that the regime and its enablers are held accountable.

The law further calls for the President to review Nicaragua's participation in the Central America Free Trade Agreement—CAFTA. The United States would never sign a free trade agreement with Belarus given the authoritarian conditions that exist in the country. And the United States should not turn a blind eye if one of our free trade partners becomes the Belarus of Central America.

In closing, let there be no doubts—the United States will continue to support defenders of democracy in Nicaragua, condemn violence and intimidation, and hold accountable the Ortega regime and those who support it. If Daniel Ortega assumes a fourth consecutive term via sham elections, he will rule without a shred of legitimacy.

I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass the RENACER Act so that we can speak with a single voice and make it clear that Daniel Ortega's paranoia of losing at the ballot box is no excuse for his systematic

dismantling of Nicaragua's democratic system.

RECOGNIZING CHESED SHEL EMES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the bravery and selfless service of the first responders and community members who responded to the horrific tragedy in Surfside, FL, on June 24, 2021, when the Champlain Towers South condo building suddenly collapsed in the middle of the night.

Our Jewish Community, particularly Orthodox Jews, have been especially affected by this tragedy. We are incredibly grateful to Chessed Shel Emes for immediately rushing in to respond following the building collapse. They swiftly heeded the call of duty to aid in rescue and recovery efforts. In the face of tremendous tragedy, they ran into danger. They are heroes, and we can never thank them enough for their bravery and determination in the face of this terrible tragedy.

I would also like to thank Rabbi Mark Rosenberg, who serves as director of Chessed Shel Emes, and all of those who worked selflessly to support our Jewish community and provide comfort during this time of need.

Chessed Shel Emes did everything possible to make sure that search, rescue, and recovery efforts upheld Jewish law. Chessed Shel Emes worked tirelessly and relentlessly, offering resources, support, and comfort to the survivors and community in Surfside and to make sure that the needs of the Jewish community were met. This work was critical in helping to bring comfort to families who lost relatives, giving them faith that their loved ones were being cared for appropriately and respectfully.

The pain these families are experiencing is unimaginable, and Chessed Shel Emes was there every step of the way to make ensure the Jewish community's beliefs and faith were honored. They exemplify true loving kindness in both words and actions.

Chessed Shel Emes provided strength amidst tragedy. The community leaned on them to advocate for their needs and to be their voice. They helped every person who turned to them. They worked diligently, sensitively, and efficiently to help mourners cope with the unknown and provide assistance and guidance. Ann and I continue to pray for the Surfside community, our Jewish community, the families and loved ones of the lost, and all of those who worked tirelessly to serve the Surfside community.

RECOGNIZING FL-1 URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the bravery and selfless service of the individuals who responded to the building collapse in Surfside, FL, on June 24, 2021.

I want to thank the FL-1 Urban Search and Rescue Task Force—FL-

TF1—for responding when the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, FL, suddenly collapsed in the middle of the night. They swiftly heeded the call of duty to provide search, rescue, and recovery efforts following the collapse. In the face of tremendous tragedy, they ran into danger. They are heroes.

FL-TF1 is one of 28 Federal search and rescue task forces overseen by FEMA, and its capabilities include search and rescue, emergency care, engineering expertise, and logistics. When they are not being dispatched to countries in crisis, many of them work for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue as local firefighters.

FL-TF1 has responded to some of the world's most notable disasters, including earthquakes, terrorist attacks, and plane crashes, among others. They responded once before in their own community, when Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida in 1992. Their expertise and range of skills has made them invaluable in disasters and well-known internationally. These brave men and women dropped everything to selflessly assist in Surfside, a particular challenge since the tragedy affected their own community, and some had missing friends or loved ones.

FL-TF1 worked nonstop and with heavy hearts following the collapse in Surfside to provide comfort and closure for the families. They worked tirelessly, even when smoke and heat from a fire inside the building's standing portion hampered their efforts. They persisted when the temperatures escalated so much that some needed IVs to replenish fluids. They continued on when Tropical Storm Elsa passed nearby and dumped torrential rain. They left the pile only when they absolutely had to. They braved conditions the likes of which we could never imagine.

I also want to thank FL-TF1 dogs for their hard work to support search, rescue, and recovery efforts. We cannot thank these brave men and women of the FL-TF1 enough. They are heroes who stepped up to serve the community in the wake of an unprecedented and unimaginable disaster. Not only did they help lead the search, rescue, and recovery operation, they also provided endless care and compassion to the families of Surfside and did everything they could to bring closure to those who lost loved ones.

We are incredibly grateful to these heroes and their families for their bravery, self-sacrifice, and determination in the face of this terrible tragedy. Ann and I are praying for the Surfside community, our Jewish community, the families and loved ones of the lost, and all of those who worked tirelessly to serve the Surfside community.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the bravery and selfless service of the individuals who

responded to the building collapse in Surfside, FL, on June 24, 2021.

I want thank all of Florida's first responders who responded when the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, FL, suddenly collapsed in the middle of the night. They immediately answered the call to serve, and firefighters, law enforcement officers, search and rescue crews, emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, and others from across the State of Florida came rushing in to try to save lives. In the face of tremendous tragedy, they ran into danger. They are heroes.

Some of these responders lost family in the collapse; yet they still answered the call. Rescue crews worked tirelessly, even when smoke and heat from a fire inside the building's standing portion hampered their efforts. They persisted when the temperatures escalated so much that some needed IVs to replenish fluids. They continued on when Tropical Storm Elsa passed nearby and dumped torrential rain. They conducted their searches with enormous care and diligence and closely worked with faith leaders to make sure that rescue and recovery efforts were done with the respect. They left their families and faced dangerous and life-threatening conditions, and they never gave up hope. Their work to recover victims gave closure to so many families, and I am so proud of these Florida heroes.

We can never thank them and their families enough for their bravery, self-sacrifice, and determination in the face of this terrible tragedy. Ann and I are praying for the Surfside community, our Jewish community, the families and loved ones of the lost, and all of those who worked tirelessly to serve the Surfside community.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the bravery and selfless service of the individuals who responded to the building collapse in Surfside, FL, on June 24, 2021.

I want to thank Florida's brave law enforcement community for responding when the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, FL, suddenly collapsed in the middle of the night. They swiftly heeded the call of duty and came rushing in to save lives. In the face of tremendous tragedy, they ran into danger. They are heroes.

Florida's law enforcement officers were on site within minutes of the collapse, and their rapid response saved lives. These brave men and women worked around the clock to support search and rescue efforts and provide protection and comfort to the entire Surfside community. They worked tirelessly, and they never gave up hope.

I would also like to thank the law enforcement chaplains who did everything they could to support the needs of those responding to the collapse and